

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method including:

constructing a first profile utilizing first information concerning a profile subject, wherein the first information is provided by the profile subject; and

constructing a second profile utilizing second information concerning the profile subject, wherein the second information is provided by a further entity,

wherein a profile search is performed against the both the first and second profiles and wherein a search result is processed according to a publication policy specified by the profile subject.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein write access to the first profile is limited to the profile subject.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein read access to the first profile is limited to the profile subject.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein search access to the first profile is extended beyond the profile subject.

5. The method of claim 6 wherein the search access to the first profile is unrestricted.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein write access to the second profile is limited to the further entity.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein read access to the second profile is limited to the further entity.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein search access to the second profile is extended beyond the further user.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the search access to the second profile is unrestricted.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the publication policy specifies that the profile subject be prompted for authorization to publish the search result.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the publication policy specifies that the profile subject be prompted for authorization to publish the search result when the search registers a match with respect to the second profile.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein the first profile includes a public profile portion and a private profile portion, and wherein the publication policy specifies that the profile subject be prompted for authorization to publish the search result when the search registers a match with respect to the private profile portion.

13. The method of claim 10 wherein the authorization is to publish the search result to an initiator of the search.

14. The method of claim 1 wherein the publication policy specifies that the search result be published without independent authorization by the profile subject.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the first profile includes a public profile portion and a private profile portion, and wherein the publication policy specifies that the search result be published without the independent authorization by the profile subject when the search generates a match against the public profile portion.

16. The method of claim 1 wherein the publication policy specifies that the search result not be published.

17. The method of claim 1 wherein the publication policy includes a rule authored by the profile subject.

18. The method of claim 1 wherein the publication policy specifies at least one search criteria to be applied when a profile search is performed against any one of the first and second profiles.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the search criteria defines a requirement for the performance of the profile search.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the requirements is that the profile search be related to specific subject matter.

21. The method of claim 1 wherein the first and second profiles form respective portions of a common profile.

22. The method of claim 1 wherein the first and second profiles reside at separate and distinct network location.

23. The method of claim 1 wherein the first and second profiles reside at a common network locations.

24. The method of claim 1 wherein the profile search is performed against a plurality of profiles and wherein the search result is processed according to the publication policy.

25. The method of claim 3 wherein the read access is denied to a host computer that hosts the first profile.

26. A system including:

a profile system to store a profile concerning a profile subject, the profile including a first profile including first descriptive information concerning the profile subject and provided by the profile subject, and a second profile including second descriptive information concerning the profile subject and provided by a further entity; and

a matching system to perform a profile search against the first and second profiles, and to process a search result, generated by the profile search, according to a publication policy specified by the profile subject.